

## BUILDING ACTIVITY

**DWELLING UNIT  
COMMENCEMENTS**

AUSTRALIA

PRELIMINARY

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 18 MAR 1998

**DECEMBER QTR KEY FIGURES**

TREND ESTIMATES	Dec qtr 97	% change	% change
		Sep qtr 97 to Dec qtr 97	Dec qtr 96 to Dec qtr 97
Dwelling units commenced			
New private sector houses	24 075	3.9	15.9
Total dwelling units	36 409	3.9	15.6
.....			
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Dec qtr 97	% change	% change
		Sep qtr 97 to Dec qtr 97	Dec qtr 96 to Dec qtr 97
Dwelling units commenced			
New private sector houses	24 778	10.1	20.0
Total dwelling units	37 480	10.0	18.9

**DECEMBER QTR KEY POINTS****TREND ESTIMATES**

- The trend for the number of new private sector houses commenced rose by 3.9%, continuing the growth evident from the September quarter 1996. The trend was 15.9% above the level of a year ago.
- The trend for the total number of dwelling units commenced also rose by 3.9% and followed increases for the June and September quarters of 3.3% and 3.2% respectively.

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES**

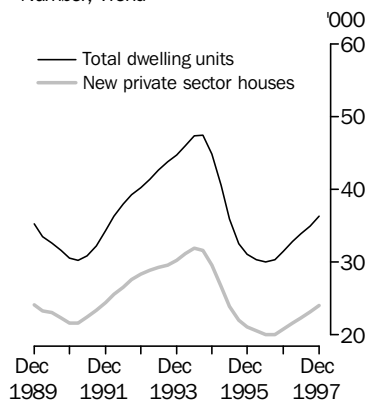
- The number of new private sector houses commenced increased by 10.1% to 24,778. The total number of dwelling units commenced increased by 10.0% to 37,480. The latter increase follows an increase of 1.1% in the September quarter.

**ORIGINAL ESTIMATES**

- In original terms, 37,969 dwelling units were commenced, an increase of 7.7% over the September quarter. This follows increases in the June and September quarters of 8.6% and 2.7% respectively.
- Increases of 10.0% in the number of new houses commenced and 6.6% in new other residential dwelling units were partially offset by a 29.4% fall in 'conversions, etc.'
- Total private sector commencements rose by 8.9% with increases in new houses of 10.6% and new other residential dwelling units of 9.2%. Public sector commencements fell by 25.6% to 892, the lowest since the series began in 1984.

**Dwelling units commenced**

Number, Trend



- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Martin Yard on Adelaide (08) 8237 7494, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

# NOTES

**FORTHCOMING ISSUES**

*ISSUE (Quarter)*

*RELEASE DATE*

March 1998

19 June 1998

**CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE**

There have been some changes to the layout of the publication, however the tables are unchanged.

**SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS THIS ISSUE**

The seasonally adjusted and trend series have been revised as a result of the annual re-analysis of seasonal factors. For more details, see Explanatory Notes 10–12.

The total number of dwelling units commenced during the September quarter 1997 has been revised upwards by 1,140 (3.3%) for Australia, including 609 (8.2%) in Victoria and 344 (4.1%) in Queensland.

**SAMPLING ERRORS**

The estimates in this publication are based on a sample survey of private sector house building activity and a complete enumeration of other building activity. Because data are not collected for all private sector house building jobs, the published estimates are subject to sampling variability. Relative standard errors give a measure of this variability and therefore indicate the degree of confidence that can be attached to the data.

**RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS**

Relative standard errors for the number of new private sector houses and total dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1997 are given below. There is 67% confidence that the actual value would be within one standard error of the sample estimate, and 95% confidence that it lies within two standard errors.

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	<i>New private sector houses</i>	<i>Total dwellings</i>
	%	%
New South Wales	3.6	2.0
Victoria	2.7	2.1
Queensland	2.6	1.7
South Australia	3.4	2.8
Western Australia	3.6	3.1
Tasmania	2.3	1.9
Northern Territory	..	..
Australian Capital Territory	1.5	1.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>

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W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

# MAIN FEATURES

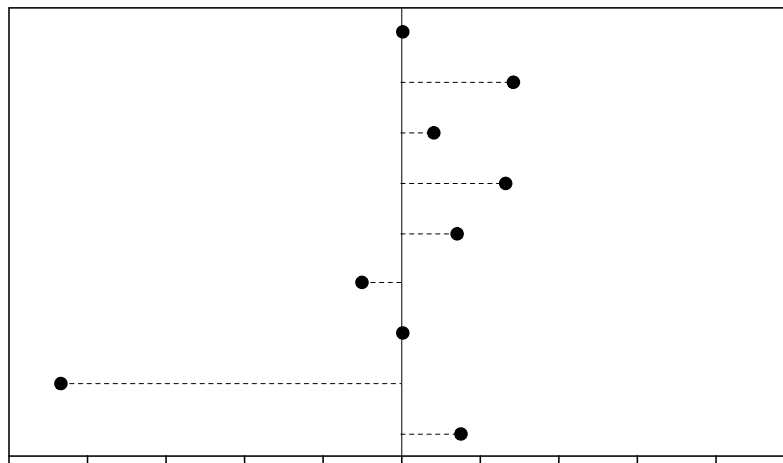
## STATE ESTIMATES

### TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED

#### Trend estimates

- Victoria recorded the largest increase (7.3%) in the trend estimate of the number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter 1997, followed by South Australia (6.7%), Western Australia (3.7%) and Queensland (2.2%), while New South Wales and Northern Territory were steady.
- Falls occurred in the Australian Capital Territory (-21.9%) and Tasmania (-2.8%).
- Similarly, when compared with a year previously, Victoria (+42.9%) and South Australia (+26.7%) showed the largest increases. Only the Australian Capital Territory (-31.7%) and Tasmania (-13.6%) reported a decrease in commencements.

#### Change from previous quarter



#### Seasonally adjusted estimates

- South Australia showed the largest increase (+23.1%) in the number of dwelling units commenced in the December quarter, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (+17.0%). Tasmania was the only State to show a decrease (-5.3%).

**TABLE 1. NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED:  
ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES**

Period	New houses		Total dwelling units (includes conversions etc)	
	Private sector	Total	Private sector	Total
<b>ORIGINAL</b>				
1996 Sept. qtr	20,380	20,761	28,683	30,300
Dec. qtr	21,474	21,860	30,856	31,955
1997 Mar. qtr	20,103	20,469	30,308	31,593
June qtr	22,688	23,156	33,213	34,324
Sept. qtr	23,303	23,807	34,041	35,240
Dec. qtr	25,771	26,197	37,077	37,969
<b>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>				
1996 Sept. qtr	19,654	20,019	27,944	29,233
Dec. qtr	20,642	21,070	30,049	31,530
1997 Mar. qtr	22,159	22,551	32,564	33,893
June qtr	22,325	22,741	32,656	33,686
Sept. qtr	22,507	22,980	33,237	34,071
Dec. qtr	24,778	25,257	36,126	37,480
<b>TREND ESTIMATES</b>				
1996 Sept. qtr	20,096	20,461	28,966	30,364
Dec. qtr	20,767	21,156	30,115	31,501
1997 Mar. qtr	21,592	22,004	31,613	32,860
June qtr	22,371	22,800	32,865	33,956
Sept. qtr	23,162	23,616	33,988	35,028
Dec. qtr	24,075	24,562	35,297	36,409

**TABLE 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS (a) COMMENCED BY STATE:  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES**

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>									
1996 Sept. qtr	9,838	6,189	7,391	1,265	3,293	498	n.a.	476	29,233
Dec. qtr	10,770	5,432	8,213	1,454	3,776	495	n.a.	376	31,530
1997 Mar. qtr	12,514	6,874	8,549	1,350	3,899	451	n.a.	528	33,893
June qtr	10,764	7,379	8,342	1,725	3,901	436	n.a.	578	33,686
Sept. qtr	11,474	7,965	8,222	1,475	3,858	432	n.a.	305	34,071
Dec. qtr	11,834	8,718	8,951	1,815	4,283	409	n.a.	357	37,480
<b>TREND ESTIMATES</b>									
1996 Sept. qtr	10,337	5,924	7,857	1,312	3,541	510	392	451	30,364
Dec. qtr	10,903	6,045	8,088	1,379	3,670	478	413	470	31,501
1997 Mar. qtr	11,462	6,560	8,308	1,467	3,816	458	443	491	32,860
June qtr	11,518	7,333	8,411	1,552	3,912	440	456	477	33,956
Sept. qtr	11,467	8,054	8,485	1,637	3,997	425	458	411	35,028
Dec. qtr	11,483	8,640	8,668	1,747	4,144	413	458	321	36,409

(a) Includes conversions, etc.

**TABLE 3. TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED**

<i>Period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
NEW HOUSES									
1994-95	28,222	25,846	31,047	8,210	16,225	2,548	947	1,533	114,577
1995-96	23,058	19,399	23,082	5,070	11,510	1,880	885	1,289	86,174
1996-97	23,385	18,652	22,871	5,113	12,522	1,561	985	1,158	86,246
1996 Sept. qtr	5,627	4,453	5,691	1,207	2,897	378	223	283	20,761
Dec. qtr	6,075	4,139	6,281	1,262	3,082	462	268	290	21,860
1997 Mar. qtr	5,825	4,597	4,985	1,102	3,090	363	225	283	20,469
June qtr	5,858	5,463	5,913	1,541	3,453	357	269	301	23,156
Sept. qtr	6,213	5,688	6,134	1,399	3,513	316	312	232	23,807
Dec. qtr	6,695	7,009	6,120	1,607	3,833	373	269	291	26,197
NEW OTHER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS									
1994-95	23,271	3,612	15,113	1,525	6,073	582	541	1,194	51,911
1995-96	17,226	4,276	8,043	835	3,721	530	572	927	36,130
1996-97	18,681	6,047	9,004	651	2,241	291	701	729	38,345
1996 Sept. qtr	4,327	1,722	2,142	106	530	94	134	196	9,251
Dec. qtr	4,340	1,238	2,173	266	666	52	226	116	9,077
1997 Mar. qtr	5,382	1,560	2,428	144	516	76	82	161	10,349
June qtr	4,632	1,527	2,261	135	529	69	259	256	9,668
Sept. qtr	5,072	1,817	2,492	130	484	93	127	71	10,286
Dec. qtr	5,017	1,873	2,984	300	409	67	214	98	10,962
CONVERSIONS, ETC									
1994-95	2,100	1,051	209	61	135	12	11	5	3,583
1995-96	1,002	913	217	55	104	8	12	70	2,381
1996-97	1,667	1,132	535	26	86	30	40	65	3,580
1996 Sept. qtr	163	55	45	8	12	2	3	—	288
Dec. qtr	730	222	21	2	23	17	2	1	1,018
1997 Mar. qtr	268	361	73	1	29	10	31	1	774
June qtr	506	493	396	15	22	1	4	63	1,500
Sept. qtr	470	524	123	9	17	—	4	—	1,147
Dec. qtr	530	92	139	6	41	—	2	—	810
TOTAL									
1994-95	53,592	30,509	46,369	9,796	22,433	3,142	1,499	2,732	170,071
1995-96	41,286	24,588	31,342	5,960	15,335	2,418	1,469	2,286	124,685
1996-97	43,733	25,830	32,410	5,790	14,849	1,882	1,726	1,952	128,172
1996 Sept. qtr	10,117	6,230	7,878	1,321	3,439	474	360	479	30,300
Dec. qtr	11,145	5,599	8,475	1,530	3,771	531	496	407	31,955
1997 Mar. qtr	11,475	6,518	7,486	1,247	3,635	449	338	445	31,593
June qtr	10,996	7,484	8,570	1,691	4,004	427	532	620	34,324
Sept. qtr	11,755	8,029	8,749	1,538	4,014	409	443	303	35,240
Dec. qtr	12,242	8,974	9,243	1,913	4,283	440	485	389	37,969

**TABLE 4. TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIVATE SECTOR DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED**

<i>Period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
NEW HOUSES									
1994-95	27,747	25,338	30,538	7,745	15,731	2,542	804	1,522	111,966
1995-96	22,674	18,926	22,661	4,836	11,228	1,859	773	1,250	84,208
1996-97	23,180	18,395	22,524	5,058	12,013	1,544	815	1,117	84,645
1996 Sept. qtr	5,591	4,349	5,638	1,191	2,763	373	192	281	20,380
Dec. qtr	6,039	4,085	6,205	1,245	2,924	459	228	288	21,474
1997 Mar. qtr	5,787	4,539	4,889	1,099	3,011	355	171	253	20,103
June qtr	5,763	5,422	5,791	1,522	3,315	356	224	294	22,688
Sept. qtr	6,178	5,670	6,042	1,354	3,256	315	256	232	23,303
Dec. qtr	6,677	6,933	6,035	1,552	3,716	370	199	289	25,771
NEW OTHER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS									
1994-95	21,513	3,077	13,761	1,339	5,227	542	522	1,072	47,053
1995-96	15,775	3,218	7,292	800	2,920	378	455	839	31,677
1996-97	16,878	5,636	8,314	647	1,858	246	685	711	34,975
1996 Sept. qtr	3,633	1,462	2,054	106	362	92	132	188	8,029
Dec. qtr	4,085	1,152	1,913	266	599	40	219	116	8,390
1997 Mar. qtr	4,772	1,526	2,258	142	467	50	80	157	9,452
June qtr	4,388	1,496	2,089	133	430	64	254	250	9,104
Sept. qtr	4,665	1,714	2,419	126	411	93	127	63	9,618
Dec. qtr	4,868	1,749	2,885	292	334	65	210	98	10,501
CONVERSIONS, ETC									
1994-95	2,069	1,044	200	48	134	12	11	5	3,522
1995-96	973	884	217	55	104	8	9	—	2,250
1996-97	1,638	1,119	535	23	80	12	28	5	3,439
1996 Sept. qtr	152	55	45	5	12	2	3	—	274
Dec. qtr	724	221	21	2	17	4	2	1	992
1997 Mar. qtr	266	358	73	1	29	5	19	1	752
June qtr	496	484	396	15	22	1	4	3	1,421
Sept. qtr	465	524	101	9	17	—	4	—	1,120
Dec. qtr	525	92	139	6	41	—	2	—	805
TOTAL									
1994-95	51,328	29,459	44,499	9,132	21,092	3,096	1,337	2,599	162,541
1995-96	39,422	23,028	30,170	5,691	14,252	2,245	1,237	2,089	118,135
1996-97	41,696	25,149	31,373	5,728	13,951	1,802	1,528	1,833	123,060
1996 Sept. qtr	9,376	5,866	7,737	1,302	3,137	467	327	469	28,683
Dec. qtr	10,848	5,458	8,139	1,513	3,540	503	449	405	30,856
1997 Mar. qtr	10,825	6,423	7,220	1,242	3,507	410	270	411	30,308
June qtr	10,647	7,403	8,276	1,670	3,767	421	482	547	33,213
Sept. qtr	11,308	7,908	8,562	1,489	3,684	408	387	295	34,041
Dec. qtr	12,070	8,774	9,059	1,850	4,091	435	411	387	37,077

**TABLE 5. TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLIC SECTOR DWELLING UNITS COMMENCED**

<i>Period</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Australia</i>
NEW HOUSES									
1994-95	475	508	509	465	494	6	143	11	2,611
1995-96	384	473	421	234	282	21	112	39	1,966
1996-97	205	257	347	55	509	17	170	41	1,601
1996 Sept. qtr	36	104	53	16	134	5	31	2	381
Dec. qtr	36	54	76	17	158	3	40	2	386
1997 Mar. qtr	38	58	96	3	79	8	54	30	366
June qtr	95	41	122	19	138	1	45	7	468
Sept. qtr	35	18	92	45	257	1	56	—	504
Dec. qtr	18	76	85	55	117	3	70	2	426
NEW OTHER RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS									
1994-95	1,758	535	1,352	186	846	40	19	122	4,858
1995-96	1,451	1,058	751	35	801	152	117	88	4,453
1996-97	1,803	411	690	4	383	45	16	18	3,370
1996 Sept. qtr	694	260	88	—	168	2	2	8	1,222
Dec. qtr	255	86	260	—	67	12	7	—	687
1997 Mar. qtr	610	34	170	2	49	26	2	4	897
June qtr	244	31	172	2	99	5	5	6	564
Sept. qtr	407	103	73	4	73	—	—	8	668
Dec. qtr	149	124	99	8	75	2	4	—	461
CONVERSIONS, ETC									
1994-95	31	7	9	13	1	—	—	—	61
1995-96	29	29	—	—	—	—	3	70	131
1996-97	29	13	—	3	6	18	12	60	141
1996 Sept. qtr	11	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	14
Dec. qtr	6	1	—	—	6	13	—	—	26
1997 Mar. qtr	2	3	—	—	—	5	12	—	22
June qtr	10	9	—	—	—	—	—	60	79
Sept. qtr	5	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	27
Dec. qtr	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
TOTAL									
1994-95	2,264	1,050	1,870	664	1,341	46	162	133	7,530
1995-96	1,864	1,560	1,172	269	1,083	173	232	197	6,550
1996-97	2,037	681	1,037	62	898	80	198	119	5,112
1996 Sept. qtr	741	364	141	19	302	7	33	10	1,617
Dec. qtr	297	141	336	17	231	28	47	2	1,099
1997 Mar. qtr	650	95	266	5	128	39	68	34	1,285
June qtr	349	81	294	21	237	6	50	73	1,111
Sept. qtr	447	121	187	49	330	1	56	8	1,199
Dec. qtr	172	200	184	63	192	5	74	2	892

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains preliminary estimates from the quarterly Building Activity Survey of the number of dwelling units commenced. More comprehensive updated results for the last two quarters will be available shortly in *Building Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8752.0).

**2** The statistics were compiled on the basis of returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity. The quarterly survey comprises a sample survey of private sector house building activity and a complete enumeration of other building activity. Estimates in respect of commencements of private sector houses are therefore subject to sampling variability. The relative standard errors for these estimates are shown on page 2. Also, some returns containing jobs not known to have commenced are not received in time for inclusion in these estimates. Allowance is made for a proportion of these jobs, based on past experience, to have commenced. Estimates in this issue are therefore subject to revision.

**3** The use of sample survey techniques in the Building Activity Survey means that reliable estimates of private sector house commencements based on survey results are available only at the State, Territory and Australia levels. Further geographic disaggregations are not available. However, data for regions below State and Territory level are available from the building approvals series and from the monthly series of dwelling unit commencements compiled for South Australia and Western Australia by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Unlike data in this publication compiled from the Building Activity Survey, the series for smaller geographic areas are based on information reported by local and other government authorities.

## DEFINITIONS

**4** A *building* is defined as a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock. An integral feature of a building's design, to satisfy its intended use, is the provision for regular access by persons.

**5** A *dwelling unit* is defined as a self-contained suite of rooms, including cooking and bathing facilities and intended for *long-term* residential use. Units (whether self-contained or not) within buildings offering institutional care, such as hospitals, or temporary accommodation, such as motels, hostels and holiday apartments, are not defined as dwelling units.

**6** A *residential building* is defined as a building predominantly consisting of one or more dwelling units. Residential buildings can be either *houses* or *other residential buildings*.

■ A *house* is defined as a detached building predominantly used for long-term residential purposes and consisting of only one dwelling unit. Thus, detached granny flats and detached dwelling units such as caretakers' residences associated with non-residential buildings are defined as houses for the purpose of these statistics.

■ An *other residential building* is defined as a building which is predominantly used for long-term residential purposes and which contains (or has attached to it) more than one dwelling unit (e.g. includes townhouses, duplexes, apartment buildings, etc.).

These statistics present the number of dwelling units in other residential buildings (and not the number of buildings).



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### DEFINITIONS *continued*

**7** *Conversions, etc.* Dwelling units can also be created as part of alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units) and as part of the construction of non-residential buildings. Such dwelling units are referred to in this publication under the heading of Conversions, etc.

**8** *Commenced.* A building is regarded as commenced when the first physical building activity has been performed on site in the form of materials fixed in place and/or labour expended (this includes site preparation but excludes delivery of building materials, the drawing of plans and specifications and the construction of non-building infrastructures, such as roads).

**9** *Ownership.* The ownership of a building is classified as either public sector or private sector according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed building as evident at the time of approval. Residential buildings being constructed by private sector builders under government housing authority schemes whereby the authority has contracted, or intends to contract, to purchase the buildings on or before completion, are classified as public sector.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

**10** Seasonally adjusted building statistics are shown in tables 1 and 2. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and the effect of movement in the date of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different quarters. Details regarding the methods used in seasonally adjusting the series are available on request.

**11** Since seasonally adjusted statistics reflect both irregular and trend movements, an upward or downward movement in a seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily indicate a change of trend. Particular care should therefore be taken in interpreting individual quarter-to-quarter movements. Each of the component series shown has been seasonally adjusted independently. As a consequence, while the unadjusted components in the original series shown add to the totals, the adjusted components may not add to the adjusted totals. Further, the difference between independently seasonally adjusted series does not necessarily produce series which are optimal or even adequate adjustments of the similarly derived original series. Thus the figures which can be derived by subtracting seasonally adjusted private sector dwelling units from the seasonally adjusted total dwelling units should not be used to represent seasonally adjusted public sector dwelling units.

**12** As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's data. For the Building Activity Survey, the results of the latest review are shown in the December quarter issue each year.

### TREND ESTIMATES

**13** Seasonally adjusted series can be smoothed to reduce the impact of the irregular component in the adjusted series. This smoothed seasonally adjusted series is called a trend estimate.

**14** The trend estimates are derived by applying a 7-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 7-term Henderson average (like all Henderson averages) is symmetric but, as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. Unlike weights of the standard 7-term Henderson moving average, the weights employed here have been tailored to suit the particular characteristics of individual series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### TREND ESTIMATES *continued*

**15** While the smoothing technique described in paragraphs 13 and 14 enables trend estimates to be produced for recent quarters, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent three quarters as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. For further information, see *Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series — Monitoring 'Trends': an Overview* (Cat. no. 1348.0) or contact the Assistant Director, Time Series Analysis on Canberra (02) 6252 6345.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**16** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**17** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:  
*Building Activity, Australia* (Cat. no. 8752.0) – issued quarterly  
*Building Approvals, Australia* (Cat. no. 8731.0) – issued monthly  
*House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (Cat. no. 6416.0) – issued quarterly  
*Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (Cat. no. 5609.0)  
– issued monthly  
*Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building*  
(Cat. no. 6407.0) – issued monthly  
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**18** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office in your State or Territory.

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**19** The ABS can also make available certain building approvals and activity data which are not published. Where it is not practicable to provide the required information by telephone, data can be provided in the following forms: photocopy, computer printout, floppy disk and clerically extracted tabulation. A charge may be made for providing unpublished information in these forms.

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**20** A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD-ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact the ABS office in your State or Territory.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
n.a.	not available
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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